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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78807

Tadanobu SHIBABUKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/730,059

Group Art Unit: 2854

Confirmation No.: 2969

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 09, 2003

For: PRINTING PLATE SUCKER

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic

Darryl Mexic

Registration No. 23,063

Date: June 22, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith. Also, enclosed is a European Office Action in a corresponding European Patent Application, citing the references enclosed with this IDS.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/730,059

Attorney Docket No.: Q78807

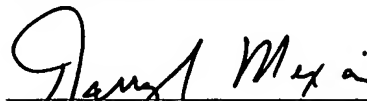
fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

A complete translation on the only foreign language reference is also submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/730,059
Confirmation Number	2969
Filing Date	December 09, 2003
First Named Inventor	Tadanobu SHIBABUKI
Art Unit	2854
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q78807

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,102,113	A	4/7/1992	Renner et al.
		US 4,589,648		5/20/1986	Hancock
		US 4,420,150		12/13/1983	Umezawa
		US 6,254,089	B1	7/3/2001	Becker et al.
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		DE	26 33 831	B1	1/5/1978	VITS MASCHB GMBH	Yes
		GB	674 844	A	7/2/1952	HEADLEY TOWNSEND BACKHOUSE	
		GB	712 031	A	7/14/1954	POST OFFICE	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.